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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 00728 271501Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /048 W
----------280142Z 068320 /66
R 271430Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1452
INO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 834

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF CG AO
SUBJ: ANGOLAN AND CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, PRESIDENCY COUNCELOR BUKASSA GAVE PERMISSION FOR AN AID REP TO VISIT CABINDAN REFUGEE CAMPS, EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH UNHCR, AND PROVIDED A GENERAL VIEW OF THE GOZ'S POLICY TOWARD THE REFUGEES. END

2. EMBOFFS MET JAN 17 WITH BUKASSA, PRESIDENCY COUNSELOR RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEES AND ANGOLAN AFFAIRS. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT IS BASED ON EARLIER MEMCON WHICH WE NOW PROVIDE FOR ADDRESSEES'S INFORMATION. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN THE INTERVENEING WEEKS TO FURTHER THE STATE OF PLAY.

3. BUKASSA READILY AGREED TO AN EMBASSY REQUEST THAT AN AID PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTOR VISIT THE CAMPS OF CABINDAN REFUGEES WHICH HAVE SPRUNG UP ALONG THE CABINDAN-ZAIRIAN BORDER. ALTHOUGH BUKASSA SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOZ DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCOMPANY THE AID OFFICER ON HIS TOUR, BUKASSA FELT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY AND PROPOSED INSTEAD THAT AN ASSISTANT FROM HIS OWN STAFF FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA MAKE THE TRIP.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 00728 271501Z

4. RESPONDING TO A QUERY ABOUT ASSISTANCE RENDERED THE REFUGEES, BUKASSA NOTED THAT WHILE THE EGLISE DU CHRIST DU ZAIRE (ECZ) HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES, THE UNHCR HAS OFFERED LITTLE AID, PREFERRING TO ENCOURAGE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES. IN PAST UNHCR COMPLAINED THAT REFUGEE CAMPS WERE NOTHING BUT MILITARY CAMPS. BUKASSA ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE DOUBTLESSLY SOME SOLDIERS AMONG THE REFUGEES, AS WAS OBVIOUS TO ANY

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INVESTIGATOR.

5. ALTHOUGH BOKASSA DID NOT DIRECTLY MENTION THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRC, HE HAS PROVIDED IRC REP ERJAVEC WITH THE PERMITS NECESSARY TO TRAVEL IN THE AREA. AT OTHER TIMES, BUKASSA HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE IRC'S ROLE, AND MENTIONED HIS APPROVAL OF IRC'S DECISION TO FOLD THEMSELVES UNDER THE ECZ BLANKET, THUS RESOLVING CERTAIN "ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES".

6. IN DISCUSSING THE GOZ'S VIEW OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION, BUKASSA EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE REALLY THREE CLASSES OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES; THOSE ANGOLANS LONG AND RELATIVELY COMFORTABLY INSTALLED IN ZAIRE, THOSE WHO FLED TO ZAIRE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 1975, AND CABINDAN REFUGEES. FOCUSING ON THE LATTER, HE NOTED THAT THEIR CASE DIFFERED FROM THE ANGOLANS', SINCE THE CABINDANS REGARD THE MPLA AS WELL AS THE CUBANS AS FOREIGNERS ON THEIR SOIL, AND WERE THUS A DISPLACED PEOPLE LIKE THE PALASTINIANS. WHILE VERY HESITANT TO ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER, BUKASSA FINALLY OFFERED A ROUGH TOTAL OF 30,000 CABINDANS. WHEN REFUGEES DO WISH TO RETURN, THEY GENERALLY GATHER NEAR THE BORDER AND FORM GROUPS; THE GOZ THEN LETS THEM LEAVE FREELY. IN CABINDA AS WELL AS THE MORE GENERAL ANGOLAN CASES, THE TASK OF QUANTIFYING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS CONFUSED BY THE TENDANCY OF GROUPS TO RETURN ACROSS THE BORDER AND SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND COME BACK TO ZAIRE. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE GOZ HAS HESITATED TO READMIT CERTAIN ANGOLANS, FORMERLY REFUGEES IN ZAIRE, WHO HAD RETURNED TO ANGOLA ONLY TO BE FORCED AS REFUGEES INTO NAMIBIA. BUKASSA IMPLIED THERE HAS BEEN SOME ATTEMPT TO MOVE REFUGEE CAMPS BACK FROM THE BORDER SINCE ANGOLAN TROOPS HAVE ATTACKED SITES IN ZAIRE.
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# Message Attributes

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**Page Count:** 2
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**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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